

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
/077 W
-----120111 171346Z /47

R 171315Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9224
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSA
HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13231

DEFENSE ALSO FOR BARRINGER, OASD/ISA/FMRA AND CSAF

E. O. 11652:XGDS-1
TAGS: UK MPOL MILI NATO
SUBJECT: USE OF RED HORSE SQUADRON IN UK

REF: STATE 185802, AUG/77

1. SUMMARY: WILBERFORCE, HEAD, DEFENCE DEPARTMENT, FCO, HAS WRITTEN GIVING HMG APPROVAL FOR STATIONING OF RED HORSE SQUADRON AT RAF WETHERSFIELD FROM JANUARY 1979. END SUMMARY.
2. AS HMG APPROVAL RESTS ON USG ACCEPTANCE ON AN AGREED CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS WE QUOTE TEXT OF WILBERFORCE'S 15 AUGUST LETTER TO POL-MIL ATTACHE IN FULL:

"YOUR LETTER TO ME OF 10 AUGUST 1977 GAVE FORMAL
NOTIFICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INTENDED
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TO DISCUSS WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE THE POSSIBILITY
OF STATIONING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM A RED HORSE SQUADRON
OF SOME 400 MEN TO UNDERTAKE RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR IN
WARTIME.

"AS YOU KNOW, THIS PROPOSAL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY
DISCUSSED AT A MEETING BETWEEN HQ THIRD AIR FORCE,
USAFC/DER AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WHICH WAS HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1977. IN CORRESPONDENCE THEREAFTER, COLONEL POTTER OF USAFE/DER PROVIDED US WITH A DETAILED CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS. THIS INCLUDED AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF THE RED HORSE SQUADRON CARRYING OUT WORK THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE GIVEN TO A PSA CONTRACTOR OR ITS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED LABOUR AND THAT PSA PERSONNEL WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE REQUIRED FOR ANY TRAINING EXERCISES.

"PSA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STANDARD OF ANY "WORKS SERVICES" UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER AGENTS ON RAF STATIONS, WHETHER OCCUPIED BY THE RAF OR MADE AVAILABLE TO USAF

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
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R 171315Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9225
SECDEF WASHDC
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CINCUSAFAF
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OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION. THIS INCLUDES ENSURING THAT SUCH SERVICES CONFORM TO UK GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION, SUCH AS THAT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK, AND TO LOCAL BY-LAWS. THEY ALSO HAVE AN INTEREST BECAUSE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF ANY CONSTRUCTION WORKS. THEY MUST ALSO HAVE REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF PSA PERSONNEL, WITH THOSE REPRESENTATIVES THE TERMS ON WHICH THE RED HORSE SQUADRON MIGHT UNDER-TAKE WORK, OTHER THAN THE WARTIME TASK OF RUNWAY REPAIR,

HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED. IT WAS, THEREFORE, ALSO AGREED
THAT ANY TRAINING TASKS WHICH THE SQUADRON MIGHT WISH
TO UNDERTAKE IN PEACE TIME AND WHICH WOULD INVOLVE
"WORKS SERVICES" WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE
PSA.

"WE WERE LATER INFORMED THAT THE US WISHED THE
SQUADRON TO BE BASED AT RAF WETHERSFIELD FROM JANUARY
1979.

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"I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO INFORM YOU THAT HER
MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS NOW APPROVED THIS PROPOSAL,
ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEPLOYMENT WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS MENTIONED
ABOVE.

"AS REGARDS THE SUGGESTION IN DR. BROWN'S LETTER
OF 27 JUNE TO MR. MULLEY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE
RED HORSE SQUADRON AT RAF FAIRFORD, WE WOULD SEE ANY
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THIS AS TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE
GENERAL CONSULTATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE ABOUT TRAINING
TASKS INVOLVING 'WORKS SERVICES' WHICH THE SQUADRON MAY
WISH TO UNDERTAKE IN PEACE TIME.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING IN DUE COURSE FOR
FORMAL UK CLEARANCE THE TEXT OF ANY PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS
WHICH THE US MIGHT WISH TO MAKE ABOUT THIS DEPLOYMENT.
THIS WILL ENABLE US TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCESS OF
INFORMING OUR STAFF, MPS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN BE
COORDINATED WITH ANY RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE PRESS.
MEANWHILE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD
REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL."

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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